



ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN

To: All District Supervisors, Inspectors, Analysts and Instructors
From: Tracy Stumbo, Chief Accident Investigator
Date: June 9, 2008

EAB-08003 - Kentucky Fatal Accident No. 2 - Timber Cutting

At approximately 11:30 am on June 3, 2008, a chain saw operator was fatally injured while clear cutting trees at a surface mine in the Pikeville District. The victim was 33 years old and had been a certified surface miner since 1997. He had 10 years experience as a tree cutter and had worked at this mine for two (2) days.

The accident occurred when a tree that was cut by the victim prematurely split and struck him causing fatal injuries.

Preventative Measures:

1. Always clear brush and obstacles from the area surrounding the tree to be cut and use caution when cutting hollowed or decayed trees.
2. Always use recommended cutting techniques to remove trees.
3. Always be aware of one-sided limb structure and lean of the tree.